

## **EPA Investments in The Lake Tahoe Basin 2016-2017**

**Wetland Monitoring and Restoration:** EPA is providing \$200,000 to TRPA to monitor wetland health, prioritize restoration, and establish wetlands restoration goals (to be announced at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Lake Tahoe Summit). Over the past two years, EPA has helped develop new assessment methods to characterize and map Tahoe wetlands.

**Managing Urban Runoff to Improve Lake Tahoe Clarity:** EPA evaluated the local stormwater program to assess progress in implementing the lake clarity restoration plan, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The first major milestone of the clarity restoration plan was achieved: a 10% fine sediment load reduction by 2016. The evaluation also shows good progress and acknowledges that continued progress will require sustained funding. The results will be shared with the Water Board, local jurisdictions, and the community.

**Funding Projects to Restore Clarity:** EPA has invested over \$1.6 million in the past two years to assist local communities and property owners to improve Lake Tahoe clarity. The most recent projects include:

- Funding assistance to purchase state-of-the-art sand spreaders and a high-efficiency sweeper to minimize road sand and remove crushed sand from road surfaces,
- Installing infrastructure to treat road runoff directly connected to Lake Tahoe,
- Technical assistance to private property owners and local municipalities to improve runoff control practices,
- Assisting local jurisdictions on tracking progress in reducing fine sediment runoff,
- Supporting citizen science and youth environmental education to foster Tahoe watershed stewardship, and
- New monitoring efforts to quantify benefits of the planned Upper Truckee Marsh restoration by the California Tahoe Conservancy.

**Community Watershed Partnerships:** EPA has provided funding and technical assistance to the Resource Conservation Districts to engage private property owners, commercial businesses and local jurisdictions to reduce fine sediment and nutrient loads. Five communities currently participate, including: Tahoe Valley, Meyers, Tahoma, the Lower Country Club area of Incline Village, and Cave Rock Estates. In addition, Placer and El Dorado Counties and the City of South Lake Tahoe established a “Stormwater Funding Partnership” to consider local funding strategies.

**EIP<sup>1</sup> Accomplishments and Outcomes:** EPA is working with TRPA and EIP partner agencies to better articulate progress and disseminate information. As a result, the public can now access an impressive amount of information to support project prioritization, decision-making, EIP results reporting and public accountability. EPA manages the SNPLMA funds that have been allocated to this effort.

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<sup>1</sup> The Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) was launched at the first Summit in 1997 as a public private partnership to protect and improve Lake Tahoe Basin natural and recreational resources. EIP includes water quality, watersheds, habitat and other elements. \$2B have been spent to date.